Anne Frank in Translation
Museum of History and Holocaust Education at Kennesaw State University
Anne Frank in Translation

Illustrations for *Anne Frank in Translation*

The Museum of History and Holocaust Education (MHHE) worked with two artists to provide illustrations for each of the panels of the exhibit *Anne Frank in Translation*. Leonel Warren completed four illustrations during a student internship with the MHHE. Kathy Knapp was commissioned to complete another four illustrations. Warren’s and Knapp’s illustrations are another form of translation: converting moments from Anne’s story into visual concepts.

Inside the Illustration

The first illustration in the exhibit depicts the legacy of Anne’s story through translation. Anne’s well-known figure, photographed numerous times by her father, and now interpreted by a young artist, is surrounded by pages from her diary. These pages suggest the proliferation of Anne’s words through translation.

Illustration above by Leonel Warren.
Quotation from Anne’s Diary

“We’re far from rich now, but I’ve pinned all my hopes on after the war. I can assure you, I’m not so set on a bourgeois life as Mother and Margot. I’d like to spend a year in Paris and London learning the languages and studying art history. Compare that with Margot, who wants to nurse newborns in Palestine. I still have visions of gorgeous dresses and fascinating people. As I’ve told you many times before, I want to see the world and do all kinds of exciting things, and a little money won’t hurt!”

(Monday, May 8, 1944)
What is translation?

In its simplest definition, translation means the process of converting words or text from one language into another. However, the word embodies a broader definition in its origin or etymology. Translat means “carried across” in Latin. The word itself was carried across space and time from Latin, to Old French, to Middle English, to modern English. To carry something across space and time requires human will and human agency. Translation is an active practice. And although the most common definition of translation involves carrying ideas from one language to another, a broader definition of translation is used readily in science, math, and engineering: to move something from one place to another. In that movement, change is inevitable, but the essence of the original is conserved. This exhibit adopts the broadest available definition of translation: the conversion of something from one form or medium into another. Translation is adaptation, transformation, movement, and change. But it is always rooted in love for the original.

The Franks themselves were multilingual. German was arguably their mother tongue, although their anger with the Nazi regime prompted them to enact rules forbidding the speaking of German in the Secret Annex. Anne and Margot spoke Dutch fluently, and Otto had become proficient in the language for work. Edith, like many older immigrants, was never as comfortable in the new language as in the one of her birth. Anne, Margot, and Peter studied English and French during their quiet days in the Annex, and Fritz Pfeffer took a course in Spanish. Anne wrote about her aspirations to study art history in England and France when she became a young woman. Language held the key to a broader world of possibilities.
Who translated Anne Frank’s diary?

The translation of Anne Frank’s diary from language to language involved a series of partnerships with publishers around the world. Before his death in 1980, Otto Frank served as one of the diary’s primary editors, but each publisher put together an editorial team and hired a translator to convert the text from its original language to the primary language of its new target audience. To date, Atlas Translations has documented versions of Anne’s diary in more than 70 languages.

Translator Spotlight

Susan Massotty was selected by Doubleday as the translator for the definitive edition of The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank, edited by Otto Frank and Mirjam Pressler and released in 1995. This version has since been reprinted with a new introduction and chronology by Everyman’s Library in 2010. Massotty’s translations have included works by Kader Abdolah, Cees Nooteboom, Abdelkader Benali, and Margriet de Moor. She was awarded the Vondel Prize for translation of Dutch literature in 2000. Even a thorough internet search yields little in Massotty’s own voice; instead her contributions have enabled the voices of others to pass from language to language and culture to culture.
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Map showing the languages into which Anne Frank's diary has been translated and the countries around the world where they are spoken.
Collage of Anne Frank translations in the collection of the Bentley Rare Book Museum at Kennesaw State University
Inside the Illustration

This illustration by Kathy Knapp depicts Anne writing in her diary. As she stares down at the paper, her words fill the background of the scene, imbued with a life of their own.

Illustration by Kathy Knapp.
Quotation from Anne’s Diary

“My first wish after the war is to become a Dutch citizen. I love the Dutch, I love this country, I love the language, and I want to work here. And even if I have to write to the Queen herself, I won’t give up until I’ve reached my goal! I’m becoming more and more independent of my parents. Young as I am, I face life with more courage and have a better and truer sense of justice than Mother. I know what I want, I have a goal, I have opinions, a religion and love. If only I can be myself, I’ll be satisfied. I know that I’m a woman, a woman with inner strength and a great deal of courage! If God lets me live, I’ll achieve more than Mother ever did, I’ll make my voice heard, I’ll go out into the world and work for mankind!”

— (Tuesday, April 11, 1944)
A Timeline of Anne Frank’s Life

**June 12**
Anne Frank was born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

**Summer**
Anne Frank arrived in Aachen, Germany, to stay with her grandmother while her parents and sister got settled in Amsterdam.

**February**
Anne Frank arrived at her new home in Amsterdam.

Map of Anne Frank’s Life Journey. Courtesy U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>Anne Frank went into hiding with her family in Amsterdam.</td>
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<td>August 4</td>
<td>Anne Frank and her family were arrested and taken to Gestapo headquarters in Amsterdam then imprisoned at Weteringschans.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 8</td>
<td>Anne Frank and her family were transported to Westerbork.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February/March</td>
<td>Anne and Margot Frank die of typhus at Bergen-Belsen.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 4</td>
<td>Anne Frank and her family were transported to Auschwitz.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October/November</td>
<td>Anne and Margot Frank were transported to Bergen-Belsen.</td>
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When Anne Frank moved to Amsterdam, her parents enrolled her in a Montessori School. Pioneered by Maria Montessori, an Italian physician and educator, in 1907, the Montessori philosophy encouraged children to take charge of their learning through hands-on activities. Montessori education remains popular around the world. In 1930s Amsterdam, education was subsidized in order to provide all children with opportunities. Anne’s school reflected the demographics of her neighborhood. Jewish and non-Jewish children attended together.

After the German invasion of the Netherlands in 1940, Jewish children were no longer allowed to attend school with non-Jewish children. They were consolidated into segregated schools. Anne and Margot attended Amsterdam’s Jewish Secondary School. It was there that Anne gained a reputation as a “chatterbox,” an annoying epithet that she later wrote about in her diary.
The Montessori School in Amsterdam where Anne Frank went to school from 1934 through 1941 is now decorated with a mural based on Anne’s writings in her diary. Courtesy Eyalreches

Anne Frank in Quotation

Each section of this gallery guide includes a quotation from Anne’s diary. Anne’s words have inspired young people around the world as they contemplate living through hard times.

Still of child reading excerpts from Anne Frank’s diary. This video, an excerpt from ‘In line for Anne Frank’ (The Media Brothers & NOS, 2014), includes young girls from around the world reading from translations of Anne’s diary in their own languages. Courtesy Anne Frank House
Anne Frank Protected

Inside the Illustration
This illustration by Leonel Warren depicts a woman reaching down to discover Anne Frank’s diary strewn on the floor. Miep Gies and Bep Voskuijl discovered the diary along with photo albums and other papers in the Annex on the day that its residents were arrested and taken away by the Gestapo, August 4, 1944.

Miep Gies stands with her husband, Jan, at the entrance to the “Secret Annex” in the Anne Frank House, May 5, 1987. She is holding a copy of her memoir, *Anne Frank, Remembered*. Courtesy National Archives of the Netherlands

Illustration above by Leonel Warren.
Quotations from Anne’s Diary

“I have plenty of dreams, but the reality is that we’ll have to stay here until the war is over. We can’t ever go outside, and the only visitors we can have are Miep, her husband Jan, Bep Voskuijl, Mr. Voskuijl, Mr. Kugler, Mr. Kleiman and Mrs. Kleiman, though she hasn’t come because she thinks it’s too dangerous.”
— (Sunday, July 12, 1942)

“I see the eight of us in the Annex as if we were a patch of blue sky surrounded by menacing black clouds. The perfectly round spot on which we’re standing is still safe, but the clouds are moving in on us, and the ring between us and the approaching danger is being pulled tighter and tighter. We’re surrounded by darkness and danger, and in our desperate search for a way out we keep bumping into each other. We look at the fighting down below and the peace and beauty up above. In the meantime, we’ve been cut off by the dark mass of clouds, so that we can go neither up nor down. It looms before us like an impenetrable wall, trying to crush us, but not yet able to. I can only cry out and implore, ‘Oh, ring, ring, open wide and let us out!’”
— (Monday, November 8, 1943)
In the prologue of her memoir, Miep Gies wrote, “There is nothing special about me. I have never wanted special attention. I was only willing to do what was asked of me and what seemed necessary at the time. When I was persuaded to tell my story, I had to think of the place that Anne Frank holds in history and what her story has come to mean for the many millions of people who have been touched by it. I’m told that every night when the sun goes down, somewhere in the world the curtain is going up on the stage play made from Anne’s diary. Taking into consideration the many printings of Het Achterhuis (“The Annex”) – published in English as The Diary of a Young Girl – and the many translations that have been made of Anne’s story, her voice has reached the far edges of the earth.”

Born in Austria, and sent to live with a Dutch family in 1920, Miep Gies felt a kinship with the Jewish
refugees from Nazi Germany who fled to the Netherlands in the 1930s. The Dutch had offered her shelter and sustenance when her Austrian family had trouble taking care of her during the hard times that followed the First World War. Otto Frank showed her kindness when she was a young woman, offering a job in the office of Opekta and recognizing her talent in customer service after she mastered the company’s jam-making process. Otto Frank helped her navigate international bureaucracy in order to become a Dutch citizen before her marriage to Jan Gies on July 16, 1941.

When Miep and Jan were asked to help the Frank family, they never hesitated. It was Miep, as well, who connected her dentist, Fritz Pfeffer, with the Franks and the Van Pels’ so he could hide beginning in November 1942. As a social worker for the Dutch government, Jan Gies used his position to assist the resistance. In addition to his official caseload, he carried a shadow caseload of young men and women attempting to avoid labor conscription or hiding from the Nazis after refusing to swear loyalty to the occupiers. The Gies’s also sheltered a young man in their home. All the while, they kept their helping secret; the people they helped did not know about the others who were also being helped by the Gies family. In an act of bravery after the residents of the Secret Annex were captured, Miep went to the offices of the Gestapo

Otto and Anne Frank walk happily with other guests attending Miep and Jan’s wedding, July 16, 1941. Courtesy Anne Frank House
in Amsterdam. She risked capture, hoping to offer a bribe for the release of her friends. She was turned away when she discovered the secret police secretly listening to the BBC radio.

When Otto returned to Amsterdam alone, Miep and Jan took him into their home. Together, they celebrated the birth of Miep’s son, Paul, in 1951. Otto stayed with the family until he remarried and moved to Switzerland.

It wasn’t until forty years after the war that Miep felt ready to tell her story. After she published her memoir in 1987, she began speaking publicly about her experiences during the war. She said, “Helping people who are in danger is not a matter of courage but from making a decision that every human being has to make in his life when he or she distinguishes between good and bad.”

You can watch excerpts of Miep talking about Anne Frank here: http://www.miepgies.nl/en/biography/video/.

Dutch Life During the Occupation

The Museum of History and Holocaust Education had the honor of interviewing two Dutch men in February 2020 whose families survived the Nazi occupation.

Marcel Kohler was born in Utrecht, the Netherlands, in 1950, five years after the end of World War II. He is the youngest of three siblings, with an older brother born three years after the war, and an older sister who was a child during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. His family experienced hardships during the occupation, including food shortages and threats to their property by the occupying forces. During the war, they hid their
valuables in secret cabinets, and his sister later shared stories with him of Jewish people hidden in the attic. The Kohler family immigrated to the United States in 1955 and settled in Lansing, Michigan.

Born in Schiedam in 1934, Hank Van Driel was celebrating his sixth birthday when the Nazis marched into the Netherlands. He and his family endured five years of hardship and near-starvation rations during the German occupation. After the war, Van Driel studied to become a chef and worked at hotels and restaurants in Rotterdam, eventually landing a job on the Holland America line of cruise ships in 1962. Attracted by steady work in the American resort industry, Van Driel immigrated to the United States in 1964. He has remained a citizen of the Netherlands and travels frequently between the countries.

You can follow Van Driel’s Georgia Journey here: https://georgiajourneys.kennesaw.edu/tours/show/35.

Described in Gies’s memoir as well as Kohler and Van Driel’s oral histories, the “Hunger Winter” of 1944-1945 was the worst part of the occupation experienced by the Dutch people. After a summer of hope following the D-Day landings by the Allies in Normandy, the people of the Netherlands thought their liberation was imminent. Anne described these hopeful times in her diary.

Wanting to end the war by the end of 1944, the Allied forces launched Operation Market Garden which intended to invade Northern Germany through the Netherlands. The failure of this campaign led to only some of the Netherlands being liberated with Allied forces halted at the Rhine River. German blockades of food and supplies from the non-liberated parts of the Netherlands led to thousands dying, creating the Hongerwinter, or the Dutch Famine of 1944-45. The famine ended when Allied forces were able to liberate the rest of the Netherlands in May 1945.
Anne Frank Appreciated

Inside the Illustration
This illustration by Kathy Knapp depicts Otto Frank reading Anne’s diary upon his return to Amsterdam in 1945. Otto was amazed by the quality of Anne’s writing and by her complex inner life.

Illustration by Kathy Knapp.

Otto Frank at the unveiling of the Anne Frank statue on Westermarkt in Amsterdam, March 14, 1977. Courtesy National Archives of the Netherlands.
The poem Father composed for my birthday is too nice to keep to myself. Since Pim writes his verses only in German, Margot volunteered to translate it into Dutch. See for yourself whether Margot hasn’t done herself proud. It begins with the usual summary of the year’s events and then continues:

As youngest among us, but small no more,
Your life can be trying, for we have the chore
Of becoming your teachers, a terrible bore.
‘We’ve got experience! Take it from me!’
‘We’ve done this all before, you see.
We know the ropes, we know the same.’
Since time immemorial, always the same.
One’s own shortcomings are nothing but fluff,
But everyone else’s are heavier stuff:
Faultfinding comes easy when this is our plight,
But it’s hard for your parents, try as they might,
To treat you with fairness, and kindness as well;
Nitpicking’s a habit that’s hard to dispel.
When you’re living with old folks, all you can do
Is put up with their nagging -- it’s hard but it’s true.
The pill may be bitter, but down it must go,
For it’s meant to keep the peace, you know.
The many months here have not been in vain,
Since wasting time goes against your Brain.
You read and study nearly all the day,
Determined to chase the boredom away.
The more difficult question, much harder to bear,
Is ‘What on earth do I have to wear? I’ve got no more panties, my clothes are too tight, My shirt is a loincloth, I’m really a sight! To put on my shoes I must off my toes, Oh dear, I’m plagued with so many woes!’

— (June 13, 1943)
Inside the Secret Annex

Follow this link to take a virtual tour of the Secret Annex. This tour was created by the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam.


The Annex’s Other Residents

Although Anne Frank became the most famous resident of the Secret Annex at 263 Prinsengracht, every resident had their own story. They all went into hiding with unique pre-war experiences, and they all had hopes and dreams for the future.

**Fritz Pfeffer**

- **Pre-war:** Born April 30, 1889.
- Successful dentist in Berlin, Germany.
- Divorced, with young son, Werner. In a relationship with Charlotte Kaletta, a Catholic.
- **Wartime:** After Kristallnacht, he placed his son on a Kindertransport to England and fled with Charlotte to the Netherlands.
- Became friends with the Franks, the Van Pels family, and the Gies family.
- **Life in Hiding:** Moved into the Secret Annex on November 16, 1942.
- Surprised to discover that the Franks and Van Pels’ were hiding in Amsterdam.
- Shared Anne’s room, a challenging arrangement for a teenager and a man in his 40s.
- **Hopes and Dreams for the Future:** Hoped to start a new life with Charlotte in South America; Learned Spanish in preparation.

Fritz Pfeffer ca. 1940. Courtesy Anne Frank House
• Fate: After the raid on the Secret Annex on August 4, 1944, he ended up doing hard labor at the Neuengamme concentration camp.

• Died December 20, 1944, of a gastrointestinal infection.

PETER VAN PELS

![Image of Peter van Pels working on the seat of a chair, May/June 1942. Courtesy Anne Frank House](image)

• Pre-war: Born November 8, 1926.

Son of August and Hermann van Pels, a Jewish family from Osnabruch, Germany.

The family fled Germany and moved to Amsterdam in 1937 due to Nazi antisemitism.

• Wartime: In Amsterdam, Peter’s father worked for Otto Frank.

• The Van Pels’ family decided to go into hiding when call-ups for forced labor in Germany were increasing.

• Life in Hiding: Moved into the Secret Annex on July 13, 1942.

• Peter had his own room, a tiny space at the base of the stairs that led to the attic.

• He was encouraged by Anne and Margot to focus on his studies, although he seemed to prefer tinkering.

• Peter and Anne grew closer during the spring of 1944, spending time together in the attic where they kissed and cuddled. At the start of the summer, Anne’s affection for Peter began to cool.

• Hopes and Dreams for the Future: Hoped to go to the Dutch East Indies and live on a plantation.

• Fate: After the people of the Secret Annex were captured on August 4, 1944, Peter and Anne spent time together at the Westerbork transit camp.

• On September 3, the Van Pels’ and the Franks were transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. He was separated from Anne, Margot, and his mother at the platform.

• Peter was assigned to the Auschwitz post room and was able to get some extra food.
periodically, which he shared with his father and Otto.

- With the approach of the Soviet army, Peter was forced to evacuate Auschwitz along with all other able-bodied prisoners. He arrived at Mauthausen in the spring of 1945.
- After being overworked in the mines at the Melk satellite camp, Peter ended up in the sick barracks and died on May 10, 1945, five days after American troops liberated the camp.

**AUGUSTE VAN PELS**

- **Pre-war:** Born September 29, 1900 in Germany as Auguste Rottgen.
- Married the Dutch citizen, Hermann van Pels in 1925.
- Gave birth to their son, Peter, in November 1926.
- **Wartime:** Concerned about the rising tide of antisemitism, the Van Pels moved to Amsterdam in 1937 where they lived in the same neighborhood as the Franks.
- Auguste kept house and took care of boarders in order to bring in extra money.
- **Life in Hiding:** Moved into the Secret Annex on July 13, 1942.
- Auguste took on much of the cooking in the Secret Annex, trying to prepare tasty meals with scant ingredients.
- It was difficult for Auguste to adjust to a life without luxuries, and Anne described fights between her and Hermann; the worst occurred, according to Anne, when Hermann forced her to sell her fur coat to finance the continuation of their hiding.
- **Hopes and Dreams for the Future:** Auguste hoped to return to a life similar to the one she had before going into hiding. She passed the time reading biographies and novels and learning English and Dutch.
- **Fate:** Captured by the Gestapo on August 4, 1944, and sent to Westerbork transit camp.

Auguste Van Pels, ca. 1920. Courtesy Anne Frank House
• On September 3, the Van Pels’ and the Franks were transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Auguste remained with Margot, Anne, and Edith.
• On November 1, 1944, Auguste was transported to Bergen-Belsen along with Anne and Margot.
• In February 1945, Auguste was transported to Raguhn, a satellite camp of Buchenwald. A few weeks later, she was put on a transport to Theresienstadt.
• Witnesses gave testimony to her death during the transport from Raguhn to Theresienstadt— one stated that she died from typhus and was placed beside the tracks while another said that she was thrown under the train by German soldiers.

HERMANN VAN PELS

Pre-war: Born March 31, 1898, in Osnabruck, Germany, but had Dutch citizenship through his father who was from Groningen, the Netherlands.
• Married Auguste Rottgen on December 25, 1925.
• Their son, Peter, was born in November 1926.
• Hermann worked for his father’s butcher supply company from 1932 until 1937.
• Wartime: Concerned about the rising tide of antisemitism, the Van Pels’ moved to Amsterdam in 1937 where they lived in the same neighborhood as the Franks and set up a textile trading company with Hermann’s brother.
• He began working for Otto Frank as a specialist in herbs and spices used in the making of sausages. Otto’s second business, Pectacon, traded in herbs and spices.
• He worked with Otto to set up the hiding place behind the Opekta offices in the spring of 1942.
• Life in Hiding: Moved into the Secret Annex on July 13, 1942.
• He continued to remain involved in Pectacon while in hiding, working through business correspondence.
• Hermann found a reliable butcher to supply meat for the families and also relied on the helpers for a supply of cigarettes.

• **Hopes and Dreams for the Future:** Hermann hoped to return to business after the war and was very optimistic after D-Day in 1944.

• **Fate:** Captured by the Gestapo on August 4, 1944, Hermann tried to bribe SS-Hauptscarfuhrer Karl Joseph Silberbauer to let the eight people go for money, but Silberbauer did not respond.

• After spending almost a month at Westerbork transit camp, the Van Pels and Frank families were transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau on September 3, 1944.

• Hermann worked in road construction outside the camp along with Otto Frank and Fritz Pfeffer until he injured his hand and had to remain in the barracks.

• Witnesses gave testimony to his murder in the gas chambers in October 1944.

**Pre-war:** Born February 16, 1926, in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

• Moved to Amsterdam with her family in 1933, when she was seven years old.

• Margot was a good student and picked up Dutch quickly while attending a neighborhood primary school; she continued to excel, especially in science and math at the municipal Lyceum for Girls.

• **Wartime:** Margot was aware of the beginning of the war. In a letter to an American pen pal on April 27, 1940, she wrote “We often listen to the radio, for these are stressful times.”
• In the fall of 1941, she had to transfer from the municipal Lyceum for Girls to the Jewish Lyceum. She missed her non-Jewish friends and had to give up on tennis and rowing, since Jews were no longer permitted to play sports.

• On July 5, 1942, Margot received a summons to report to a labor camp in Germany. Fearing this was a death-sentence, the Frank family got ready to go into hiding immediately.

• Life in Hiding: Moved into the Secret Annex on July 6, 1942.

• Anne described Margot’s studies as including English, French, Latin, Shorthand, Mechanics, Trigonometry, Geometry, Physics, Chemistry, Algebra, Literature, Bookkeeping, Geography, Modern History, Biology, Economics, Religion, and Medicine.

• Like Anne, Margot kept a diary, but hers did not survive the war; Margot often seemed lonely in the Secret Annex.

• Hopes and Dreams for the Future: Margot hoped to become a maternity nurse in Palestine.

• Fate: Captured by the Gestapo on August 4, 1944.

• After spending almost a month at Westerbork transit camp, the Van Pels and Frank families were transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau on September 3, 1944.

• Margot remained with Anne and their mother at Auschwitz until she and Anne were transported to Bergen-Belsen on November 1, 1944.

• Margot and Anne remained together; due to terrible conditions, they both succumbed to spotted typhus in February 1945, just two months before the camp was liberated by the British military.

EDITH FRANK

A youthful Edith Hollander in the 1920s. Courtesy Anne Frank House

• Pre-war: Born January 16, 1900, in Aachen, a German city close to the Dutch border.
• Grew up in a wealthy Jewish family; Edith enjoyed family parties and holidays by the seaside and helped with the family’s businesses.

• Married Otto Frank on May 8, 1925.

• The couple moved to the Marbachweg, a new housing estate in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. There, their daughter Margot was born in 1926 and Anne was born in 1929.

• The family made the decision to leave Germany in 1933, shortly after Adolf Hitler came to power. They found a new home on the Merwedeplein in Amsterdam.

• Edith kept house while Otto concentrated on building his businesses, but she had some trouble learning Dutch and getting used to her new life.

• **Wartime**: Edith’s family experienced the violence of Kristallnacht in Germany. Her brother Walter was imprisoned in a concentration camp briefly before managing to emigrate to the United States, along with her brother Julius.

• Edith’s mother, Rosa Hollander-Stern, moved in with the family in the Netherlands in 1939 and lived with them until her death in 1942.

• **Life in Hiding**: Moved into the Secret Annex on July 6, 1942.

• Anne and Edith often clashed during their time in hiding together.

• Edith encouraged her children’s religious education but often suffered from feelings of despair.

• **Hopes and Dreams for the Future**: Witnesses have noted that Edith had a hard time imagining a future for the family.

• **Fate**: Captured by the Gestapo on August 4, 1944.

• The Frank family was made to live in a special barracks for people who had defied the will of the Nazis; they had to take old batteries apart which was work both filthy and unsafe.

• After spending almost a month at Westerbork transit camp, the Van Pels and Frank families were transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau on September 3, 1944.

• Edith was devoted to her daughters while they were in the camp together; when Margot and Anne were isolated in a separate barracks for people suffering from scabies, Edith worked with two other prisoners to dig a hole in order to pass them food.

• Edith remained with Margot and Anne at Auschwitz until the girls
were transported to Bergen-Belsen on November 1, 1944.

• During the last month of her life, Edith found a companion in fellow prisoner Rosa DeWinter whose daughter had also been transported. Edith died on January 6, 1945, just three weeks before Auschwitz was liberated.

OTTO FRANK

Otto (left) and his brother Robert in the German army during World War I, 1914-1918. Courtesy Anne Frank House

• Pre-war: Born May 12, 1889, in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.
• The Frank family was a liberal Jewish German family; they valued Jewish traditions but did not observe all religious rituals.
• Otto’s father ran a business bank in Frankfurt; as a young man, Otto studied art history in Heidelberg and also did banking internships in New York City.
• Otto returned to Germany after his father’s death in 1909.
• He served in the German Army during World War I in a unit that analysed enemy artillery fire and was discharged with the rank of lieutenant in 1918. He then joined the family bank.
• Married Edith Hollander on May 8, 1925, with a wedding party taking place four days later, on his 36th birthday.
• The couple moved to the Marbachweg, a new housing estate in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. There, their daughter Margot was born in 1926 and Anne was born in 1929.
• The family made the decision to leave Germany in 1933, shortly after Adolf Hitler came to power. They were concerned about the family business and about the rising tide of antisemitism. They found a new home on the Merwedeplein in Amsterdam.
• Otto worked to create Opekta, a company specializing in fruit pectin for jam-making, in 1933.
• In 1937, he attempted to start a business in Great Britain, but was unsuccessful. In 1938, he added Pectacon to his business portfolio, a company that traded in herbs and spices for sausage-making. Herman van Pels joined the company at this point.

• **Wartime:** After the German invasion of the Netherlands on May 15, 1940, Otto had to work hard to keep his companies out of Nazi hands. He was able to do so with the help of his employees as well as Jan Gies, Miep’s husband.

• The Franks had many friends and acquaintances arrested by the Green Police (Gestapo) in raids during 1941; reports of their deaths in mysterious places in the East began to come back to the people left behind.

• Otto tried to arrange for the family to emigrate to the United States, but he was unable to prepare all of the necessary documents, and then borders were completely closed when the U.S. entered the war in December 1941.

• In the spring of 1942, Otto began to set up a hiding place for his family in an empty part of the building occupied by his business at 263 Prinsengracht; he asked four of his employees to help, and they all agreed.

• **Life in Hiding:** Moved into the Secret Annex on July 6, 1942.

• Otto continued to help run his businesses even while in hiding.

• Otto supervised the children’s studies and studied English himself, often by reading Charles Dickens.

• Observers noted that Otto tried to remain calm and keep up everyone’s spirits while the eight people in hiding struggled to keep their nerves from getting frazzled.

• **Hopes and Dreams for the Future:** Otto hoped that everyone would survive the war and be able to rebuild their lives where they had left off before going into hiding.

• **Fate:** Captured by the Gestapo on August 4, 1944.

• The Frank family was made to live in a special barracks for people who had defied the will of the Nazis; they had to take old batteries apart which was work both filthy and unsafe.

• After spending almost a month at Westerbork transit camp, the Van Pels and Frank families were transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau on September 3, 1944.
• Otto worked first in a Kommando Strassenbu, building roads outside the camp. Then, in the winter, he was given work peeling potatoes.
• Otto remembered feeling supported by Peter Van Pels who sometimes brought him extra food.
• Near the end of the war, Otto was admitted to the sick barracks. He weighed 115 lbs. when Soviet troops liberated the camp on January 27, 1945.
• He learned of Edith’s fate from Rosa de Winter during his long journey from Auschwitz to the Netherlands via Odessa (in modern-day Ukraine) and the Monowai, a ship heading toward Marseille, France.
• He arrived in Amsterdam on June 3, 1945, and moved in with Jan and Miep Gies.
• Otto learned of the death of Anne and Margot in July from the Brilleslijper sisters who had known them at Bergen-Belsen.
• Building a New Life: After publishing Anne’s diary in the Netherlands in 1947, Otto moved to Basel, Switzerland, in 1952.
• He married Fritzi Geiringer, a fellow Holocaust Survivor with a daughter, Eva, the same age as Anne.
• Otto died on August 19, 1980, after devoting the final third of his life to working for human rights and reconciliation.
Anne Frank Published

Inside the Illustration
This illustration by Leonel Warren depicts children reading Anne Frank's diary together.

First edition of Het Achterhuis (The Annex). Courtesy Anne Frank House

Illustration above by Leonel Warren.
Mr. Bolkestein, the Cabinet Minister, speaking on the Dutch broadcast from London, said that after the war a collection would be made of diaries and letters dealing with the war. Of course, everyone pounced on my diary. Just imagine how interesting it would be if I were to publish a novel about the Secret Annex. The title alone would make people think it was a detective story. Seriously, though, ten years after the war people would find it very amusing to read how we lived, what we ate and what we talked about as Jews in hiding. Although I tell you a great deal about our lives, you still know very little about us. How frightened the women are during air raids; last Sunday, for instance, when 350 British planes dropped 550 tons of bombs on IJmuiden, so that the houses trembled like blades of grass in the wind. Or how many epidemics are raging here!

— (March 29, 1944)
The challenges that Otto Frank had getting Anne’s diary published are a testament to the slow process by which wartime memoirs became popular after World War II. However, their popularity has increased in the almost eight decades since the end of the war.

Diaries and memoirs published after the end of the war provide a glimpse into the diverse personal experiences of people who lived through the unique challenges of World War II. The following list includes perspectives from around the world.

**DUTCH**

- **Title:** *The Hiding Place: The Triumphant True Story of Corrie Ten Boom.*
- **Authors:** Corrie ten Boom, Translated by John Sherrill and Elizabeth Sherrill.
- **Publisher:** Bantam Books, October 1, 1984.
- **Author Identity:** Dutch family who became active in the resistance and hid Jews during the Nazi occupation.
- **Author Fate:** ten Boom’s father and sister perished in Nazi concentration camps, but Corrie ten Boom survived to tell their story.

Corrie ten Boom, ca. 1921 Public domain, courtesy Wikimedia Commons
Klemperer removed his yellow star under cover of the Allied bombing of Dresden and escaped with his wife into American-held territory. He and his wife returned to their home after the war and became active in the East German cultural scene after joining the communist Socialist Unity Party of Germany. He died in 1960, and his diaries were published posthumously.

**POLISH**

- **Title:** Someone Must Survive to Tell the World.
- **Author:** Tosia Schneider.
- **Publisher:** Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation, 2007.

Tosia Szechter Schneider, during her emigration to the United States, 1949. Courtesy Breman Museum of Jewish Heritage
• Author Identity: Polish Jewish Holocaust Survivor.

• Author Fate: Confined with her family to a series of ghettos in Horodenka, and Tluste, Poland, Tosia was ultimately liberated from the Lisowce labor camp in March 1944 after losing her parents and brother to the horrors of the Holocaust. She came to the U.S. in 1949, married Fred Schneider in 1950, and settled in Atlanta, Georgia, where she wrote her memoir in honor of her mother.

Publisher: St. Martin’s Press, 2019.

• Author Identity: Polish Jewish Holocaust Victim.

• Author Fate: Renia began writing in her diary in 1939. Separated from their mother by the war, Renia and her sister, Arianna, lived with their grandparents in Przemysl near the border with Romania. Renia writes about everyday life during the Nazi occupation and her love for her boyfriend, Zygmund. Although Zygmund is able to smuggle Renia out of the ghetto, she is ultimately captured by the Gestapo and killed.

Elie Weisel, December 4, 1996. Courtesy John Mathew Smith

Book cover for Renia’s Diary. Courtesy Google Books

Title: Renia’s Diary.

Author: Renia Spiegel, with Deborah Lipstadt, Elizabeth Bellak, and Sarah Durand.
• Title: *Night.*
• Author: Elie Wiesel, translated by Marion Wiesel.
• Publisher: Hill and Wang, 1960, 2006.
• Author Identity: Romanian Jewish child survivor of the Holocaust.
• Author Fate: After the Germans invaded Hungary, Wiesel was confined to a Ghetto in his hometown of Sighet. From there, he was deported to Auschwitz and worked as a slave laborer in Bruna. As the Russian Army approached, Wiesel was sent on a death march to Buchenwald where he was eventually liberated by American soldiers in April 1945. Wiesel began writing his memoir in France. It was first published in Yiddish and then abridged into the version known as *La Nuit* in French. It was translated into English in 1960. Wiesel immigrated to the United States where he became a well-known speaker about the Holocaust and helped to establish the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

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JAPANESE

• Title: *Hiroshima Diary: The Journal of a Japanese Physician, August 6-September 30, 1945.*
• Author: Michihiko Hachiya with Dr. Warner Wells, translator and editor.
• Author Identity: Hachiya was the director of the Hiroshima Communications Hospital during World War II.
• Author Fate: Dr. Hachiya survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and recorded his experience treating patients suffering from its consequences.
**FRENCH**

Title: *Doors That Open Only from the Outside/ Survivre.*

Author: Yvonne Rothschild Redgis, Partial translation by Edward Francell.

Publisher: Larousse, 2010.

Yvonne Rothschild with her parents, ca. 1930s. Courtesy U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

Author Identity: Yvonne Rothschild Redgis was a ballet teacher in Paris during World War II.

Author Fate: When France was occupied by the Germans, she was taken to Drancy transit camp and then sent to Auschwitz. She survived because she was in very good shape due to her dance practice. Eventually, she joined her family in the United States.

**BRITISH**

Title: *World War II London Blitz Diary: A Woman’s Revelations Enduring War and Marriage.*

Author: Ruby Side Thompson, Victoria Aldridge Washuk, editor.

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2011.

Excerpt from the memoir of Yvonne Rothschild Redgis, Courtesy Edward Francell
• Author Identity: Ruby lived in London during the Blitz.

• Author Fate: The mother of seven sons, two of whom were enlisted in the RAF, Ruby Thompson confided in her diary during the London Blitz. Her granddaughter decided to publish her diary after her death in 1970.

EUROPEAN THEATER/AMERICAN

Book cover for Roi Ottley’s World War II. Courtesy Google Books

• Title: Roi Ottley’s World War II: The Lost Diary of an African American Journalist.

• Author: Vincent Roi Ottley, Mark A. Huddle, editor.

• Publisher: University Press of Kansas, 2011.

• Author Identity: African American journalist sent to cover the European Theater during World War II.

• Author Fate: Author of A New World A-Coming, an exploration of American hypocrisy in fighting for freedom in Europe while denying it to Black people at home, Ottley was sent to cover the experiences of African American soldiers in Europe. He sent dispatches home but saved his most trenchant observations for his personal diary. Ottley died in 1960, and his personal journal was found years later buried among other papers from the war years.

AMERICAN/GERMAN

Eugene Kimling, 1945. Courtesy Eugene Kimling

• Title: A Life to Live: The Autobiography of Eugene Kimling, Marietta GA.

• Author Identity: African American journalist sent to cover
• Author: Eugene Kimling.
• Publisher: Self-published, 2016.
• Author Identity: German-American World War II veteran and child of the Hitler Youth.
• Author Fate: Born in New York City but trapped in Germany during World War II, Eugene Kimling and his brother were mandatory members of the Hitler Youth. After the end of the war, they worked as translators from the British Army and returned to the United States where they enlisted in the U.S. Army, winding up in Japan. Kimling used the G.I. Bill to attend school to become an aeronautical engineer, eventually working for Lockheed Martin in Marietta, Georgia.

JAPANESE-AMERICAN

• Title: They Called Us Enemy.
• Author: George Takei, with Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott, and Harmony Becker.
• Publisher: Top-shelf Productions, 2020.
• Author Identity: Japanese-American actor and activist, most famous for his role as Commander Sulu in Star Trek.

• Author Fate: According to Takei’s author profile on Amazon, “George Takei is known around the world for his founding role as Hikaru Sulu, helmsman of the Starship Enterprise, in the acclaimed television series Star Trek. But Takei’s story goes where few stories have gone before. From a childhood spent with his family wrongfully imprisoned in Japanese American internment camps during World War II, to becoming one of the country’s leading figures in the fight for social justice, LGBTQ rights, and marriage equality, Mashable named Takei the #1 most-influential person on Facebook, with 10.4 million likes and 2.8 million followers on Twitter.”
Farm workers, Mt. Williamson in the background, Manzanar War Relocation Center, California, 1943. Photos like this one by Ansel Adams emphasized the dignity of the Japanese incarcerated by the U.S. government during World War II, but they also created a romantic image of the internment camps. Courtesy Library of Congress
Anne Frank Performed

Inside the Illustration
This illustration by Kathy Knapp depicts Anne Frank and Peter van Pels seated on a stage. In the illustration the real figures of Peter and Anne have become figures to be performed by actors on stages around the world.

Illustration by Kathy Knapp.

Haley Maye playing Anne Frank in the 2016 University of Arkansas production of the play. Courtesy UARK Theater.
Although I’m extremely diligent when it comes to my schoolwork and can pretty much follow the BBC Home Service on the radio, I still spend many of my Sundays sorting out and looking over my movie-star collection, which has grown to a very respectable size. Mr. Kugler makes me happy every Monday by bringing me a copy of Cinema & Theater magazine. The less worldly members of our household often refer to this small indulgence as a waste of money, yet they never fail to be surprised at how accurately I can list the actors in any given movie, even after a year. Bep, who often goes to the movies with her boyfriend on her day off, tells me on Saturday the name of the show they’re going to see, and I then proceed to rattle off the names of the leading actors and actresses and the reviews.

— (January 28, 1944)
Meyer Levin was a war correspondent in Europe during World War II; from there he reported on the horrors of the Holocaust. An American Jewish novelist, he knew that readers often made connections with unfamiliar stories through literature. In 1951, he read the French translation of Anne Frank’s diary for the first time. Almost immediately, he envisioned the story as a Broadway play. Although he was initially supported in his effort to adapt Anne’s diary for the theater by Otto Frank, his adaptation was critiqued by literary and theatrical figures, including Lillian Hellman and Norman Mailer, who convinced Frank to work with Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett instead. Levin was never satisfied with the new version or the stated reasons for producing it. He believed that the produced version of the play suppressed elements of Anne’s story that were “uniquely Jewish” and also that there was a Stalinist conspiracy at work to suppress prominent Jewish writers. Ultimately, he sued the Frank family, claiming that they rejected his play while still using much of it in the version that was ultimately produced. Levin’s long and complex relationship with Anne Frank’s story, cultural differences among American Jews of German and Eastern European extraction, and the oppressive atmosphere of the McCarthy era led to this autobiographical work, *The Obsession*, published by Simon and Schuster in 1973.
The Diary of Anne Frank film (1959)

- **Director:** George Stevens
- **Producer:** George Stevens
- **Writer:** Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett
- **Starring:** Millie Perkins, Joseph Schildkraut, Richard Beymer, Shelley Winters, Diane Baker, Ed Wynn
- **Music by:** Alfred Newsman
- **Distributed by:** 20th Century Fox Film Corporation
- **Release Date:** March 18, 1959
- **Languages:** English, German
- **Honors:** Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for Shelley Winters as Petronella van Dann

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w21O8mP9_Ak

The Diary of Anne Frank play (1955, 1997)

- **Written by:** Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett
- **Premiered:** October 5, 1955
- **Original Language:** English
- **Honors:** Tony Award for Best Play and Pulitzer Prize for Drama, 1956
- **Adapted:** 1997 by Wendy Kesselman

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97kl3CwHNms

Performed in 2015 by the Actors Studio of Newburyport

Trailer for 2016 UARK performance:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=10154364532835351
Anne Frank Animated Film (1995)

• Director: Akinori Hagaoka
• Writer: Hachiro Konno, Roger Parbes
• Music: Michael Nyman and Carine Gutlerner (French and English versions)
• Producer: Madhouse
• Release: August 19, 1995
• Original Language: Japanese

Anne no Nikki (アンネの日記), also known as The Diary of Anne Frank, is a 1995 Japanese anime film based on Anne Frank’s The Diary of a Young Girl.

English Version released May 3, 2020 on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAIRFyR6NyQ
**The Diary of Anne Frank opera (1968)**

- Music and Libretto: Grigory Frid
- For: Soprano and Chamber Orchestra
- Composed: 1968
- First Performed: 1972
- Original Languages: German, Russian


Maria Matveeva, 2017:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyX8oYPZ204](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyX8oYPZ204)

English version premiered in New York in 2003 performed by the Encompass NewOpera Theatre:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMrJE2xNBmQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMrJE2xNBmQ)

**Yours, Anne (2009)**

- Writers: Enid Futterman and Michael Cohen
- Original Release Date: 1985

"Yours, Anne" directed by Michael Philip Davis. Music drama based on *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Enid Futterman and Michael Cohen. New York State Theatre Institute, 2009. For more, please visit

[www.michaelphilipdavis.com](http://www.michaelphilipdavis.com)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELi0EeauaEQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELi0EeauaEQ)
Anne Frank Represented

Inside the Illustration

This illustration by Kathy Knapp depicts a back view of the Anne Frank House, centered on the windows of the Secret Annex. At the top of the building is the attic window where Anne used to look out at a chestnut tree in a neighbor’s backyard. A row of trees with Anne’s signature above them illuminates the way in which seedlings from that chestnut tree have come to represent Anne Frank around the world.

People lined up outside the Anne Frank House museum on Prinsengracht in Amsterdam, 2015. Courtesy Dietmar Rabich
Quotations from Anne’s Diary

“I now know why I’m so much more restless than Peter. He has his own room, where he can work, dream, think and sleep. I’m constantly being chased from one corner to another. I’m never alone in the room I share with Dussel, though I long to be so much. That’s another reason I take refuge in the attic. When I’m there, or with you, I can be myself, at least for a little while. Still, I don’t want to moan and groan. On the contrary, I want to be brave!

— (March 16, 1944)

Another time, several months ago, I happened to be upstairs one night when the window was open. I didn’t go back down until it had to be closed again. The dark rainy evening, the wind, the racing clouds, had me spellbound; it was the first time in a year and a half that I’d seen the night face-to-face... It’s not just my imagination — looking at the sky, the clouds, the moon, and the stars really does make me feel calm and hopeful. It’s much better medicine than valerian or bromide. Nature makes me feel humble and ready to face every blow with courage!

— (June 13, 1944)
During the first decade following World War II, Otto Frank worked with his employees to rebuild his businesses, but they lacked the funds to fully restore 263 Prinsengracht. The former offices and their “house behind” fell into disrepair, and Otto Frank sold them to a textile company. However, when the company prepared to demolish the buildings, a group of Dutch citizens formed a committee to preserve the place where Anne had written her diary. The Anne Frank House organization was established in 1957, and the restored hiding place was opened to the public in 1960.

Otto Frank remained involved in the Anne Frank House organization until his death in 1980.

The Anne Frank House has functioned as a non-profit museum and educational organization since its opening. According to the Anne Frank House website, it’s mission is to “welcome visitors to the museum, manage the collection, create educational material, or do research.”

Since opening their first traveling exhibit in 1985, they have created an additional four exhibits as well as stand-alone and group activities focused on human rights.
Anne Frank Fonds Basel

Otto Frank founded the Fonds in 1963, shortly after his move to Switzerland. He designated the foundation as his universal heir and licensor for Anne Frank’s diary and all the family photos. The Fonds states that it is “guided by the last will of its founder and the living tradition of the organisation. Otto Frank’s commitment was to a cosmopolitan society showing solidarity and without prejudice or marginalisation. He particularly supported work relating to peace, young people and dialogue, and advocated the strengthening of human rights as well as opposing any form of discrimination, racism or anti-Semitism. The Anne Frank Fonds uses the income from the Diary and its licences for charitable purposes, education, and scientific research.”

The Fonds serves primarily as a licensor and grant-giving organization with permanent partnerships with the Anne Frank House and its international subsidiaries. In addition, the Fonds supported the founding of the Frank Family Center in Frankfurt, Germany, in 2012. The center shares the history of Frankfurt’s Jews as well as houses the archives of the Frank and related families.

Over the years, the Anne Frank Fonds and the Anne Frank House have maintained a cordial relationship but have experienced some conflict related to the protection and dissemination of Anne Frank’s legacy. Both organizations have a legitimate claim to Anne and Otto’s legacies, but they don’t always see eye to eye.
Anne wrote about the chestnut tree that she could see from the attic three times in her diary. In 1968, Otto Frank noted the effect that her writing about the tree had on him: “How could I have known how much it meant to Anne to see a patch of blue sky, to observe the seagulls as they flew, and how important the chestnut tree was for her, when I think that she never showed any interest in nature. Still, she longed for it when she felt like a bird in a cage. Only the thought of the freedom of nature gave her comfort. But she kept all those feelings to herself.” Many other readers of Anne’s diary have shared this poignant connection to her writing about nature.

In 2005, the chestnut tree, located at 188 Keizersgracht, was over 170 years old, one of the oldest trees in Amsterdam. It was found to have an incurable disease. Knowing that the tree could not be saved forever, despite the ardor of a growing fan-base, and the installation of an iron support structure, the Anne Frank House requested permission to gather its chestnuts from the tree’s owner. The chestnuts were germinated, and young trees were distributed around the world to various organizations dedicated to preserving Anne Frank’s legacy. The tree fell on August 23, 2010.
Anne Frank Oculus VR (2018)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzQcvw-Gh5M4&t=22s

The Anne Frank House has continued to utilize new technology to connect visitors with its mission. One of the newer forms of technology is virtual reality.

As you explore this VR tour of the Anne Frank house, notice:

• Use of sound
• Use of excerpts from diary
• Items that can be picked up and held

Still of Anne Frank Oculus VR with the user’s hand avatar hovering over Anne Frank’s desk-lamp, 2019. Courtesy Anne Frank House
One of the more controversial representation of Anne Frank is her figure rendered in wax. Three versions of Anne Frank exist at wax museums: one in Amsterdam, one in Frankfurt, and one in Berlin. All three were authorized by the Anne Frank Fonds and were constructed in consultation with historians and experts on the human form. Representatives of Madame Tussaud’s in Berlin speak of Anne as a hopeful figure who can inspire an emotional connection. Anne is depicted writing in her diary and surrounded by books and other items reflective of her interests during her time in hiding.

Wax museums remain popular as places for people to “meet” celebrities and historical figures. However, Anne’s inclusion in Madame Tussaud’s has prompted controversy, in part due to her proximity to a wax figure of Adolf Hitler. Lacking in historical context, critics fear that the depiction of Anne in wax trivializes her experience. At the same time, a rendering in such a popular place is likely to perpetuate Anne’s status as an icon.
“Anne Frank” illustration by Daniel Mark Duffy, 1997.

“Anne Frank” painting by Louisa Greenstock, 2012.


“Reflection” painting by Fiona Graham, commissioned by the Anne Frank Trust, U.K. 2019.

“Anne Frank” painting by Richard Brandao, 2018.

“Homage to Anne Frank #5” mixed media by Herb Greene, ca. 1970s.

“Anne Frank” painting by Myra Roberts, 2015.
Anne Frank Reimagined

Inside the Illustration

This illustration by Leonel Warren depicts a young girl looking up at a large portrait of Anne Frank in a museum or gallery setting. The girl's position of reverence is evidence of the emotional connection that the figure of Anne Frank continues to inspire across generations.

The front cover from the ‘Graphic Diary of Anne Frank’, an illustrated adaptation of the world-renowned ‘Diary of a Young Girl’. The adaptation is by screenwriter and film-maker Ari Folman and illustrator David Polonsky, the creative team behind the film ‘Waltz With Bashir’. Cover scan courtesy Museum of History and Holocaust Education
“It’s a wonder I haven’t abandoned all my ideals, they seem so absurd and impractical. Yet I cling to them because I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart. It’s utterly impossible for me to build my life on a foundation of chaos, suffering and death. I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness, I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too, I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquility will return once more. In the meantime, I must hold on to my ideals. Perhaps the day will come when I’ll be able to realize them!”

— (Saturday, July 15, 1944)
Anne Frank of...

Anne Frank’s status as an icon has inspired the comparison of other young girls experiencing hardship around the world to Anne Frank.

Zlata Filipovic was called “Anne Frank of Sarajevo.”

Zlata Filipovic was given a diary for her 11th birthday, right before the start of the Bosnian war. She wrote in her diary between 1991 and 1993, and a portion was published by a small press in Sarajevo in 1992. Critics, including the journalist Janine DiGiovanni, described Zlata as “The Anne Frank of Sarajevo,” and the fame that came from the publication of her diary led to the United Nations helping her and her mother move to Paris in 1993. Filipovic graduated from the University of Oxford in 2001 and became a writer and documentary-maker. She co-edited Stolen Voices: Young People’s War Diaries, From World War I to Iraq in 2006 and currently lives in Dublin, Ireland.

Malala Yousafzai was called “Anne Frank of Pakistan.”

Born in the Swat Valley in northern Pakistan in 1997, Malala Yousafzai became an advocate for girls’ education when she was thirteen years old. She wrote a blog for the BBC under a pseudonym, but her identity became known to the Taliban
which led to her shooting on a school bus in 2012, when she was 15 years old. After surviving the ordeal, Malala and her family were resettled in the U.K. as refugees. There, she published her memoir, *I Am Malala* in 2013. In 2014, she was honored by the Anne Frank Trust, U.K., with the Anne Frank Award for Moral Courage. Executive Director of the Trust, Gillian Walnes Perry said, “Malala is one of the most remarkable people we have encountered, both as a teenager and an educator, and is as inspirational a figure as Anne Frank.” That same year, Yousefzai became the co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for her work as an advocate for education for all.

The Anne Frank Declaration

To encourage the thoughtful use of Anne Frank’s legacy as a commitment device for human rights, the Anne Frank Trust, U.K., which was created by friends and colleagues of Otto Frank in 1990, established the Anne Frank Declaration in 1999. Created first for Anne Frank Day, an annual observance in the U.K. on June 12, Anne Frank’s birthday, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Anon became the first world leader to sign the Declaration on January 14, 1999. The text of the declaration was created by Gillian Walnes Perry, executive director of the Anne Frank Trust.

It challenges its signatories to join a network of world leaders in:

- Standing up for what is right and speaking out against what is unfair and wrong
Defending those who can’t defend themselves

Striving for a world in which everyone is treated fairly and has an equal chance in life

Upon signing the declaration, Kofi Anon said,

“Anne Frank perished in the Holocaust, but that descent into evil could not extinguish her completely. Through her diary, an essential part of Anne Frank survived the war. Today, she is an icon of hope admired throughout the world. Hers is an enduring legacy, an answer not only to the cruelty of the Nazis, but also to the brutality of people who, in our time, commit genocide and despicable crimes against humanity.

Anne Frank’s eternal words have inspired people of all ages, religions and nationalities, but they resound most powerfully among the young. That is one of the main reasons why the United Nations has taken her message to heart. For whom does the United Nations exist if not for the oppressed and vulnerable children and youth of our world? The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the High Commissioner for Human Rights, my Special Representative on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children: all of us, and many others throughout the United Nations system, work first and foremost for their welfare and their well-being. Their best interests lie at the heart of our global mission.

If Anne Frank, in her living hell, could summon the power to imagine a better, peaceful world, a future free of suffering and persecution, then surely we can summon the will to make that day come to pass. In that spirit, I am pleased to add my name to the list of those who have signed this Declaration, and to express my gratitude to the Anne Frank Educational Trust and all others who are making this effort possible.”
Exhibit Credits

Designer: Zoila Torres
Curator: Adina Langer, Museum of History and Holocaust Education
Curator: JoyEllen Williams, Bentley Rare Book Museum
Illustrators: Kathy Knapp and Leonel Warren

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Gillian Walnes Perry, Author The Legacy of Anne Frank

Exhibit Produced: 2020–2021
References and Suggested Readings


Nathie. BECOME ANNE FRANK IN VIRTUAL REALITY | Anne Frank House Tour VR Experience (Oculus Rift Gameplay), 2018.


Stevens, George. The Diary of Anne Frank. 20th Century Fox, 1959.


Adina Langer, MHHE curator, with research resources for *Anne Frank in Translation*, 2021. Courtesy Stefanie Green

Concept sketch for the sixth panel of *Anne Frank in Translation* by Leonel Warren, 2020. Courtesy MHHE

Kathy Knapp working on an illustration for *Anne Frank in Translation*, 2021. Courtesy Jennifer Dickey

JoyEllen William, Bentley Rare Book Museum curator, with Anne Frank translations from the Bentley Collection, 2021. Courtesy Tamara Livingston